The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 941

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1929.

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

VOL. 19, NO. 6.

He who loves not his country can love nothing.—Johnson.

INDUSTRIAL BOURBONS FORCE WORKERS TO UNITE

Strikes in the southern textile industry will probably mark the end of blurbs that this "native American stock" can not be interested in "foreign agitators who foment unrest by organizing trade unions."

This indictment is wrong on two counts:

First, the American trade union is distinct from any other trade union in the world. In this country organized workers depend upon themselves, rather than attempt to "capture" the government that will be run by a few "leaders" who hand down blessings from above.

Second, economy necessity, rather than "agitators," is the base of American trade unions.

Our opponents can't—or won't—understand that workers join trade unions only after they are convinced individual effort has failed.

Our opponents are the real trade union organizers. Low wages, long hours and speed up systems in the southern textile industry again proves that the Bourbon never learns.

These southern workers are the last of old-time Americans. They knew nothing of trade unionism until they became industrialized. Then they realized that the exploiting employer cares nothing for sex, nationality, creed or politics.

Then they awakened to the fact that employers and allies play on their prejudices and their fears to keep them from the unions.

The experience of southern textile workers is the experience of every industrialized section.

Deportation of two trade union officials from Elizabethton is another phase of the historic opposition to organized labor.

Northern anti-union employers, as a rule, abandoned this outlawry and have substituted opiates known as the company "union" and shop representation.

These permit the employer to tell his "hands" they are getting something without effort—a claim that is contrary to human experience.

The company "union" is supported by the "yellow dog" and the labor injunction—two powers which will be removed as organized labor exposes the injustice of the government aiding employers.

The company "union" is a polite form of thuggery. It is deceptive. It takes no part in the social and economic life of the nation. It is silent against wrong. It drugs workers, as did the so-called "open" shop and the "American plan."

These systems have the same background—control of the workers and a denial of their right to act collectively.

The anti-union employer yields just in proportion to the determination of workers to unite and have a voice in working conditions.

Ship Owners Employ Chinese As Side Line For Smuggling

San Francisco, April 20.—The opium traffic revolves around expert Chinese smugglers who are employed on American ships, according to Paul Scharrenberg, editor Seamen's Journal. The labor editor points to the source of the opium traffic in discussing the failure of the League of Nations' Advisory Commission on Opium to control the illicit narcotic trade.

"The prospects for effective control of the traffic in opium seem rather gloomy," said Mr. Scharrenberg, who calls attention to reports from the San Francisco customs office that 23 important ship seizures of narcotics have been made since 1923. The official fines for this smuggling totaled $608,210, but this was reduced to $15,183.

"Of course, it is no secret that Chinese crews are responsible for nine-tenths of all smuggling in narcotics."

"The obvious thing to do under the circumstances would seem to be the speedy replacement of the expert Chinese smugglers who so readily find employment in the transpacific trade. But the good men and women who are so anxious to protect society from the growing menace of narcotics do not seem to grasp the necessity of hitting at the base of the trouble and suppress expert smuggling.

"The professional Chinese opium smuggler will gladly work as a member of the ship's crew without compensation. In fact, there is little doubt that he will cheerfully pay for the privilege of plying his trade on ships crossing the Pacific. And still Congresswoman Kahn and Congressman Free of California insist that Mr. Dollar of the Dollar Steamship Company and other 'long-suffering American shipowners' must be deprived of their Chinese crews."

BOSSES' INSURANCE HARMS MIDDLE AGED

Washington, April 20.—Employers use group insurance to eliminate workers 40 and 45 years of age, said President Rosemund in his report to the annual convention of the International Federation of Technical Engineers', Architects' and Draftsmen's Unions.

"All group insurance premiums are based on the weighted average age of the group and are calculated on annual change," said Mr. Rosemund. "The higher this average age limit, there is a corresponding increase in the average premium paid. Large employers of labor would keep annual premium rates as low as possible, and men 40 and 45 years of age encounter difficulty in securing a position. As a result, the melancholy situation creates a human scrap heap, which up to 10 years ago was unthought of in this country."

BROOKHART PLANS FEDERAL PAY BILL

Washington, April 20.—Senator Brookhart will urge a revision of federal employes' salaries at the special session of Congress, which convened April 15.

The Iowa lawmaker is not hopeful of success at the present session but will be prepared to urge its passage if the legislative program permits. The session is mainly intended to consider tariff changes and farm relief. The regular session of Congress convenes the first Monday in December, when wage relief will be vigorously urged.

The Brookhart proposal would carry out the intent of the Welch salary bill, which has been practically destroyed, as far as low-wage federal employes are concerned, by governmental interpretation.

TRADE UNION LAWS MUST BE OBSERVED

Detroit, Mich., April 20.—Circuit Court Judge Brennan ruled that a worker must exhaust every law provided by his union before he can seek legal redress for an alleged wrong.

The decision is in line with innumerable court rulings.

The court took this position in the case of a business representative of the Operating Engineers' Union who was dismissed from his position. Instead of carrying his case to the executive board of the international union, he rushed into the equity court and asked for an injunction.

MILK DRIVERS UNITE

Portland, Ore., April 20.—Milk wagon drivers are uniting. They are aided by representatives of the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

MILL OWNERS ADVISED TO RECOGNIZE UNIONS

Gastonia, N. C., April 20.—The Daily Gazette of this city advises mill owners to accept the inevitable and recognize organized labor.

"The union is coming to southern mills and the fact might as well be recognized," says this newspaper. "The mill operatives, in many cases, have just grievances and they ought to be righted. The only way to do that is by mediation and conferences between owners and operatives."

TRADE UNION ACTIVITY IS BRINGING RESULTS

Washington, April 20.—"The 'Double Our Membership' slogan has appealed to the trade union movement," says President Green in a letter to State Federations of Labor and city central bodies.

"Non-union workers are manifesting discontent and indicate a determination to organize," said Mr. Green. "The fallacy of the company 'union' and shop representation is more apparent and these workers are turning to the trade unions."

In renewing his appeal for still greater activity, the A. F. of L. executive said substantial progress has been made the last few months.

"We can do more during the months just ahead if we put spirit, purpose and effort into the campaign. Let us do collective and individual work, appealing to the economic and social interests of working men and women to join with us and become a part of the great American labor movement.

"Let there be no relaxation of State federations of labor, city central bodies and local unions to carry the message of trade unionism to non-union workers in every town, city and village of the country. Organize campaigns where none have been started and make those already organized more effective and active.

"Please rely upon the A. F. of L. to assist through the distribution of literature and through the practical help which we can render in this great 'Double Our Membership' campaign."

ELEVATOR BUILDERS IMMUNE FROM STRIKES

San Francisco, April 20.—Organized elevator constructors are 100 per cent organized and have maintained friendly relations with employers for eight years, reported Frank Feeney, president of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, at their annual convention in this city.

"We have agreements with employers and we have been free from strikes and lockouts," said Mr. Feeney. "The average wage of our members is $12 a day, but many of our members are receiving as high as $15."

TEXTILE WORKERS OUT; APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

Elizabethton, Tenn., April 20.—The Glanzstoff and Bemberg rayon plants are again shut down, following a second strike within a month. More than 5,000 workers are idle. The first strike at these plants was marked by the kidnaping of Edward F. McGrady and Alfred Hoffman, representing the A. F. of L. and the United Textile Workers.

The strikers have telegraphed President Hoover to intercede in behalf of "the recognized right of labor to organize." The President made his only southern campaign speech here last October.

The present strike is a spontaneous protest against the victimization policy of the two plants. Workers were promised at the first strike settlement that there would be no discrimination. More than 400 employes have been dismissed by the two managements. These workers are members of the newly formed union.

COAL MINER'S WIDOW IS GIVEN $13,500

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 20.—Alarmed at State-wide resentment at the murder of John Barcoski the anti-union Pittsburgh Coal Company paid the widow $15,500.

This murder reward followed one of the most cold-blooded murders in the murderous history of these company-controlled days. Three of them, including a lieutenant, are under indictment, charged with the murder.

Barcoski was attacked without cause by the three thugs, who beat him till through the coal regions and assault and shoot on sight were declared. They are commissioned by the governor on application of the coal companies. These private armies are beyond the control of police authorities.

HAVELOCK WILSON DEAD; LED BRITISH SEAMEN

London, April 20.—Havelock Wilson, president British Seamen's Union and former member of Parliament, died here, at the age of 72. He has been in ill health for many years. He disagreed with the British trade union movement on political policy and his later years were marked by conflict with other officials of organized labor.

Washington, April 20.—Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union of America, was one of his high seas when informed by radio of the death of Havelock Wilson, president British Seamen's Union. The two men were life-long friends and were to meet in London preparatory to Furuseth's attendance at the anti-smuggling of aliens into the United States.

Wilson was fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the Nashville convention of the A. F. of L. in 1897.

CITIZENS MUST WORK ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS

New Orleans, April 20.—The attorney general of this State has ruled that mechanics employed on all State and public buildings or public works must be citizens of Louisiana.

GENEVA DISARMAMENT PLAN FACES OPPOSING INTERESTS

New York, April 20.—The Preparatory Disarmament Commission, now in session at Geneva, will make its second attempt to compose fundamental differences between the naval powers and unite on a disarmament program that will be presented to the League of Nations. A disarmament conference will then be called.

The United States is represented in the preparatory conference by Hugh A. Gibson, ambassador to Belgium.

Differences between the nations are so deep-seated, and suspicion so general, close observers agree that almost insurmountable obstacles confront the delegates. All of them, however, assure the world that they favor peace and disarmament.

It is predicted in some quarters that the English representatives may lead in a peace gesture to aid the Conservative Party in the general election held in that country May 30.

The question involves geographical location and industry and production—both potential war powers—as well as battleships and submarines.

One school of thought insists that geographical location and the industrial production powers of a nation should be considered in defense proposals. This means that the United States, because of her distance from Europe and Asia, would need fewer defense powers than other nations. Her manufacturing and the ability of the United States to quickly turn it into instruments of war is also a part of this theory, which, naturally, is unacceptable to this country.

England, because of her many naval bases, is opposed to large battleships that have a long cruising area. England favors fast cruisers that will assure the safety of the seas and protect her merchant marine. England opposes the submarine that is favored by the United States and France. The latter country also demands that she maintain her standing army—the largest in the world—by which she can control Europe, while England controls the seven seas.

Italy, Japan and Germany also maintain positions that are favorable to their countries. Russia's offer for complete disarmament, in view of world-wide suspicion and jockeying of every international diplomat, is not taken seriously.

The above is but an outline of the tangled web that the diplomats will attempt to unravel.

"REDS" DON'T WANT PEACE

A representative of the United States Department of Labor reports that he can make no headway in adjusting the Gastonia (N. C.) textile strike because Communists are in control.

A well-known revolutionist, who was active in the Passaic strike, is "standing in the way."

This man "is utterly opposed to negotiating an agreement and makes all sorts of fantastic demands," says the federal conciliator.

The "reds" are running true to form.

Peace is no part of the Communists' philosophy or tactics. They foment revolution. In every strike they would wrest control from the regular trade union that they may have a clear field to inculcate class hate and revolutionary discipline.

This hate and discipline will be capitalized by the select few when "the day" arrives.

Communists are not interested in better working conditions. Where they make this plea it is but stage scenery to secure a foothold. They are more useful to employers than gunmen and spies.

KEEP LABOR ON THE AIR

Right-minded citizens should assist organized labor to secure a free, 24-hour broadcast channel for Station WCFL, Chicago, from the Federal Radio Commission.

There are but 90 of these channels, and the unionists ask that one be allocated to wage workers and the farmers.

Under the law licenses shall be given "in the public interest, convenience and necessity."

The workers' cause is all of these. The message they put on the air is of more importance than jazz and advertisements for washing compounds.

The trade union movement is woven into our social, economic and political life. It can not, with justice, be crowded off the air by stations that fail to justify their existence from the standpoint of "public interest, convenience and necessity."

CONGRESS CONVENES IN SPECIAL SESSION

Washington, April 20.—The special session of Congress, called by the President to consider farm relief and tariff changes, convened April 15.

The administration favors a short session, which will confine its activities to the consideration of the two issues. The minority party, supported by a group of progressives in the majority party, oppose what they declare is an attempt to "straight-jacket" Congress by confining the lawmakers to a set program. Under the Constitution, Congress can consider any question it sees fit, and can stay in session all summer if so disposed.

Other major issues that are being urged include the census bill, prohibition, the Federal Reserve Board, stock market speculation, repeal of the national origins provisions of the immigration law, reapportionment of the members of Congress according to the census, which has been ignored for years, and other highly controversial questions.

Special legislation will be urged by organized labor if Congress considers other questions than the tariff and farm relief.

The equalization clause of the farm relief bill seem to be doomed, as it is rejected by many former advocates. Two plans are now proposed—a revolving fund of $500,000,000 to aid farmers in marketing crops and the debenture plan. The latter proposal would give to the shipper of a surplus crop product a certificate equivalent to the market price, or a bushel of wheat, for example, and what that price would be if it had the benefit of the tariff, which would be 42 cents a bushel in the case of wheat. These debentures could be sold to importers to pay tariff charges on goods imported. This plan is used in Germany and other European countries.

GOVERNOR APPROVES PUBLIC WELFARE ACT

Albany, N. Y., April 20.—Governor Roosevelt approved the Fearon-Shonk bill which eliminates the 100-year-old poor law and substitutes a modern public welfare law. While the changes in the general plan of caring for the poor remain much with the old law, are not radical, the responsibility of counties, cities and towns is placed in the hands of a county official whose title is changed from Poormaster-tendent of the Poor to Commissioner of Public Welfare.

The new statute makes more uniform the procedure of granting relief in the counties. Responsibility for the care of children who are removed from their own homes, and the care of the poor person in an institution, are taken out of the hands of town officials whose power under the new law is limited to the granting of relief in families. All such terms as pauper, almshouse, superintendent of the poor and overseer of the poor are eliminated.

"The enactment of this law," the Governor said, "marks an epoch in public care of the poor in their homes. It is gratifying that the bill was enacted without a dissenting vote in either house.

"Even the change in the title of the law from poor law to public welfare law seems significant. It reflects the difference in the substance, spirit and intent of the statute. It will not only make it easier for needy people to apply for relief but easier to rehabilitate needy individuals and families, and will provide for the dimunition of poverty, distress and low standards of living among a large class of our citizens."

ANOTHER LABOR PARTY

New York, April 20.—The seventh hundred Labor Party will be launched in this city on May 1. The call has been issued by the Joint May Day Conference Committee.

URGE COMPENSATION

Tallahassee, Fla., April 20.—Trade unionists urge the legislature to pass a compensation law. Florida is one of three States in the Union that have no compensation law.

CARPENTERS GAIN

Sheridan, Wyo., April 20.—Union carpenters raised wages 12½ cents an hour. Similar gains were made by painters and paperhangers.

HITS PENSION CUTS BY CARNEGIE FUND

Columbus, Ohio, April 20.—The Carnegie pension fund for teachers is bankrupt through the "extraordinary" generosity of the management, asserted Monell Sayre, executive vice president of the Protestant Episcopal Church pension fund, in an address to churchmen in this city.

Newspapers announce that the Carnegie foundation will reduce its pensions to retired educators.

This is the second time that the fund repudiated its promises to teachers, said Mr. Sayre.

The fund was started a quarter of a century ago by Andrew Carnegie with a gift of $10,000,000.

POWER TRUST CONTROLS TWO BOSTON NEWSPAPERS

Boston, April 20.—A unit of the power trust has secured control of the Boston Herald and the Boston Traveler. The purchase was made by the International Paper Company, a subsidiary of the International Paper and Power Company, which controls many public utilities.

The deal reveals the ramifications of these corporations through holding companies.

Workers Ask Full Wave Length; Unions Are "In Public Interest"

Wasington, April 20.—Organized labor filled the auditorium in the Department of the Interior building in this city at a hearing before the Federal Radio Commission to grant a full wave length to station WCFL, owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The hearing developed into one of the finest defenses of organized labor ever presented by trade unionists.

Under the law wave lengths are issued on the basis of "public interest, necessity and convenience," and the representatives of labor lifted their cause out from the dollar-and-cents standard and showed that it is woven into our national fabric.

The unionists refused to concede that the labor movement is comparable with organizations of capitalists or that the workers only have the profit urge while they protest against every wrong that affects all workers.

The witnesses included Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L.; Matthew Woll, vice president A. F. of L.; Thomas Kennedy, secretary United Mine Workers; Miss Zelma Borchard, vice president American Federation of Teachers; Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer Illinois Federation of Labor, and Patrick F. Sullivan, president Chicago Building Trades Council.

The workers were opposed by station KFAB, Lincoln, Neb., and station WBBM, Chicago. These have the same wave length that labor asks. Attorneys for the two stations attempted to prove that the unionists' request was not in the "public interest," and was merely urged by a group of clients. The workers' representatives were more than a match for these attorneys, who were unaware of organized labor's long service record that the trade unionists presented.

The latter declared that the labor movement is inseparable from the nation's social, economic and cultural development and that its purpose and policies must be understood.

"We stand in the front rank as leaders of social progress, and to support this claim we present our record," said Vice President Woll. The unionist insisted that labor's message is in the public interest, and that workers should have a clear channel, rather than stand hat in hand waiting to be heard on a wave length controlled by a department store or a public utility.

In answer to a query by the chairman of the commission if the unionists intended to use such wave length for propaganda purposes, Hope Thompson, attorney for the workers, frankly declared for the right of all groups to urge their ideals.

"There can be no progress without argument," said Mr. Thompson. "We believe in propaganda. If you check controversy, you put a damper on intelligence."

The commission will make its ruling after it has considered the testimony.

WANTS CENSUS TO GET UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

New York, April 20.—A committee of the American Statistical Association recommends that the next census compile authentic data on unemployment.

This information would end guesses on the number of out-of-works and would provide a basis for necessary legislation.

The recommendation is, briefly, that census enumerators ask two questions related to employment, the first: "If you are ordinarily gainfully employed, are you out of a job of any kind?" This answer would be "Yes" or "No."

"This, however, does not cover our whole need," says the committee. "Some who are not out of jobs may not be working today for pay. Coal miners, for instance, still on the payrolls of the coal company, may be at home idle without wages because the mine is not operating at the moment.

"The need for comprehensive data has become greater because of the unforeseen and unanalyzed changes which are going on before our very eyes in the growth of new industries and in the mechanization of innumerable occupations."

The committee says the Federal government should not only count the unemployed, but it should make available the data on monthly trends of employment.

LIVING COSTS FAR ABOVE 1913 LEVEL

Washington, April 20.—Food prices were 69.4 per cent higher February 15 this year than on that date in 1913, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In only two previous years was it higher, when in February, 1926, it was 69.8 per cent and in the same month of 1927 it was 61.1 per cent above the 1913 level.

The figures does not sustain the claim that greater efficiency is lowering living costs.

In the several classes of foods, meats alone were 80.3 per cent higher in price than in 1913, cereals 64.1 per cent and dairy products 62.6 per cent higher.

Many of the items have made a new record for skyward tendencies.

BOY GUARDED LIFE IN NON-UNION MINE

Greensburg, Pa., April 20.—An irresponsible boy was supposed to watch a steel conveyer belt whose collapse caused the Harwick mine disaster on March 21 in which 46 men were killed.

A mine foreman testified that the boy was stationed on the conveyer to watch for defects. The boy was killed. The witness admitted that "a mixed amount of coal dust" would collect at the bottom of the slope where the conveyer fell.

The breaking of the belt was followed by a blast after the coal started back down the slope.

SIGN WRITERS WINNING

Detroit, Mich., April 20.—Organized sign writers are defeating a lockout order of the anti-union Sign Manufacturers' Association. The union reports that 21 agreements have been reached with individual employers.

TERM "AMERICAN" DEGRADED BY ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS

San Francisco, April 20.—The term "American," as used by anti-union employers, degrades an ideal for which men have offered their lives, declared Harold J. Boyd, county commander Veterans of Foreign Wars, in an address to the State Building Trades Council convention.

Mr. Boyd is the first to reproach cheap wage employers for calling their anti-union movement the "American plan."

"There are those who dare to desecrate the word 'American' by coupling it with a plan that has as its objective the destruction of the very principles and ideals that our comrades have defended with their lives," said Commander Boyd. "I refer to those enemies of yours and of ours who sponsor that which in their infamous presumption they have dared to style the 'American plan.'

"There are laws which protect the flag of this country from misuse; there should be laws which would protect the word that the flag symbolizes—the word American—from treasonable abuse.

"We demand that there shall be but one law for rich and poor alike, that might shall not make right, and that the rights of labor, in collective bargaining and in all other things, shall not be overshadowed by the power of wealth, nor rank, nor station."

TEXTILES IN SOUTH WILL BE ORGANIZED

New York, April 20.—Representatives of the regular United Textile Workers will organize the southern textile industry. This was voted at a meeting of the executive council of that organization.

The council declared for the 48-hour week, standardization of wages and abolition of night work for women and children.

"We are not opposed to modern methods of manufacturing to reduce costs," said President McMahon. "The union sees the importance of reducing costs proven to be unnecessarily high as a result of waste or inefficiency on the part of management or labor, but it is opposed to the imposition of any plan applying only to labor and without consultation with the workers or their representatives. They believe any plan tending to reduce costs should also be applied to the management end of industry."

Attention is called to the "stretch-out" system that efficiency experts have installed. The "stretch-out" calls for the operation of additional looms and reduced wages.

Forest City, N. C., April 20.—The Florence mill dropped its "efficiency" expert and his "stretch-out" system.

FIRST SHAM "UNION" IN TEXTILES WOBBLY

Danville, Va., April 20.—The first company "union" in the textile industry may be engulfed by the wave of organization that is sweeping the South.

This "union" was established in the Riverside and Dan River cotton mills here, following the Armistice. It is the invention of John Leiter who established the sentiment for "industrial democracy" so general at that time.

The company "union" is fashioned after the National government, with a "senate" and a "house." Final veto is in the hands of the president of the corporation. The workers control the "house." That is the extent of their power.

An efficiency system is in effect in the mills and restlessness, especially among the weavers, is marked. During the boom years following the war employes were paid an "economy dividend," but this has long since disappeared.

The "industrial democracy" scheme was given wide publicity when established, but the scheme has lost its novelty and is now ignored by space writers.

MONOTONOUS LABOR IS NOT ENJOYABLE

New York, April 20.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the governor, addressed Mrs. Edward Mercin K. Hart, employers' representative, in a conference on the five-day week. Mr. Hart declared that reasons do not like to be told when and how they should work. Mrs. Roosevelt replied that it depended upon the type of work and how long one wanted to work at it.

"Repeating the same single motion throughout the day in a factory," she said, "was not like doing work which enjoyed. Working is living to me. The point is whether we live in our work."

WANT MORE STATE TEXT BOOKS

Sacramento, Cal., April 20.—The school book trust were well represented at a legislative committee hearing on a bill that would save California millions of dollars by the State printing more of the public school text books.

Educators who opposed the bill are outside the recognized union of public school teachers. The committee favored the bill by a vote of 3 to 2 after agents of the trust secured the adoption of several objectionable amendments.